

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-04 IO-14 NIC-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01

AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

COME-00 INT-08 FEA-02 SCI-06 DLOS-06 DRC-01 /205 W

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P R 050915Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9479

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1303

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, KS, JA

SUBJ: PEKING PROTEST ON ROK-JAPAN ACCORD

1. A FEB. 4 STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SPOKESMAN OF THE PRC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROTESTS THE JAN. 30 ROK-JAPAN
AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONTINENTAL
SHELF. THE STATEMENT APPEARS TO OBJECT ONLY TO THE JOINT
DEVELOPMENT ZONE AND MAKES NO DIRECT COMMENT ON THE
DELINEATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY WHERE IT CLEARLY
INVOLVES THE ROK AND JAPAN. THE STATEMENT IS LEGALISTIC AND
STRESSES THAT A DECISION ON DIVIDING THE SHELF "SHOULD BE
DECIDED BY CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED THROUGH
CONSULTATIONS." THE CONCLUDING WARNING OF UNDESIRABLE CON-
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SEQUENCES IS IN CHINESE PARLANCE LOW KEY AND IS CONDITIONAL

UPON "JAPAN AND THE ROK" CARRYING OUT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. THIS PHRASE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS REFERRING ONLY TO JOINT DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN TO JAPANESE ACTIVITY IN ITS OWN ZONE. JAPANESE CONGEN OFFICIALS HERE ALSO COME TO THIS CONCLUSION.

2. THE STATEMENT CONSTITUTES THE FIRST CHINESE CRITICISM OF THE GOJ SINCE NORMALIZATION IN THE FALL OF 1972. THE CHARGE THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED "BEHIND CHINA'S BACK" IMPLIES THAT THE GOJ MAY HAVE ONLY INFORMED PEKING AFTER THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED. THE CRITICISM OF JAPAN, HOWEVER IS MILD AND DOES NOT QUESTION THE GOJ'S BASIC INTENTIONS TOWARD CHINA. IT IS NOT COMPARABLE TO THE VITRIOLIC DPRK REACTION WHICH TERMED JAPAN'S ACTIONS "AGGRESSIVE." PEKING'S STATEMENT DOES NOT CHARGE THE AGREEMENT WITH VIOLATING DPRK RIGHTS NOR DOES IT IMPLY THAT THE ROK HAS NO AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE IN THIS AREA.

3. COMMENT: THE PRC DID NOT RESPOND TO SEOUL'S OFFER LAST YEAR TO NEGOTIATE THE QUESTION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THE JAPANESE ARE CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT NEAR-TERM PROSPECTS FOR JOINT ROK-GOJ-PRC NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNCERTAIN AT BEST. THE PRC STATEMENT, HOWEVER, IMPLIES THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE POSSIBLE SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE. THUS THE PRONOUNCEMENT WAS ISSUED TO REASSERT CHINA'S RIGHTS IN THE INTERIM AND ALSO PROBABLY AS A SUPPORTING GESTURE TO PYONGYANG.

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